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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 005180

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH TURKISH MFA DEPUTY U/S  
ILKIN, SEPTEMBER 13

REF: ANKARA 5029

(U) Classified by Ambassador Eric Edelman, E.O. 12958,  
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: Taking stock of Cyprus on September 13, Turkish MFA Deputy U/S Ilkin expressed disappointment at the state of the EU's trade and aid proposals and the lack of a UNSCR endorsing the SYG's report; said UNFICYP's mandate should focus more on facilitating the flow of people and goods through border crossings; urged the U.S. to take measures to support the TCs; and expressed concern about future Greek Cypriot property compensation cases in the ECHR. The Ambassador assured Ilkin that the U.S. is pressing ahead with measures for the TCs; reminded Ilkin that Turkey's efforts have removed Cyprus as a reason not to grant Turkey a date to begin accession negotiations; and suggested the Turks consider affirmative steps to preserve this achievement. End Summary.

#### Taking Stock of EU Measures

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2. (C) Ilkin said he wanted to take stock of the Cyprus situation. While the initial EU response after the referendum was positive, EU trade and aid proposals have been watered down at the Commission and COREPER. The GCs, supported by the Greeks (and the French, Cyprus Department Head Bilman asserted in a later meeting), are trying to defeat the regulation for direct trade, which is the most important part of the package for TCs and Turkey. On aid, the GCs are seeking to have funding go through them and to take out compensation and reparations for GCs. Turkey knows the U.S. has limited influence in this process, Ilkin added, but we consider it important to keep the U.S. informed.

#### The UNSC and UNFICYP

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3. (C) Ilkin said it is unfortunate that there is still no UNSCR endorsing the SYG's May report on the Good Offices Mission. Some acknowledgment of the report is important to Turkey. Ilkin still hopes the UNSC will incorporate the report's wording in some context.

4. (C) Noting the lack of violent incidents on the island, Ilkin said UNFICYP should change its focus to facilitating the flow of people and goods through the gates between north and south, which may not require as large a force as at present. Turkey does not want any "surprises" regarding UNFICYP's mandate, he said pointedly, especially no enhancement of UNFICYP's role. Ilkin urged that relations between UNFICYP and the TCs be "formalized," so the TCs feel "they have a say" with UNFICYP.

#### Frustrated Turks Look to the U.S. on Measures for TCs

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5. (C) Ilkin said that PM Erdogan and FM Gul feel that nothing has come out of Turkey's efforts on Cyprus. The Ambassador noted that FM Gul had expressed the same disappointment during their September 1 meeting (reftel). The GOT leadership feels the TCs are on the back burner, Ilkin continued. Ilkin expressed appreciation for the U.S.'s "preliminary" efforts to reach out to the TCs, particularly amid election-year politics. However, EU and Islamic countries are looking to see what the U.S. is doing for TCs. "We need to break this circle," he concluded.

#### ECHR "Not Encouraging"

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6. (C) Ilkin said developments in the ECHR were not encouraging. The GOT expects the Court to find an admissible Greek Cypriot property compensation case, leading to potentially-huge financial obligations for Turkey and the TCs. Loizidou was supposed to be a one-time case, and Turkey cannot afford more such cases. Ilkin fears Turkey is moving toward another deadlock with the ECHR. The Ambassador pointed out that admissibility is not the end of the process: Turkey can still argue that "TRNC" compensation mechanisms constitute an adequate avenue for remedies. Ilkin agreed and predicted no definitive ECHR decision for another year and a

half, but said the admissibility ruling will lead to other cases and create a political problem for the GOT.  
TCs Taking "Sober" Steps, GCs Working on "Gimmicks"

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17. (C) Ilkin cited "sober" steps by Talat since the April referendum: opening the Bostanci crossing, opening the Karpas gymnasium, allowing phone service to start. He contrasted them to what he called GC "gimmicks," e.g., the Varosha and Famagusta proposals.

U.S. Pressing Ahead

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18. (C) The Ambassador agreed that EU measures for TCs have not had the hoped-for results. Nevertheless, the U.S. is pressing forward in Washington, Brussels and EU capitals, and on the island to end TCs' isolation. U.S. funding for economic development in the north should reach the island by the end of the year. The U.S. will also increase scholarships for TC students; is working on getting a positive results on direct flights amid a thicket of legal considerations; and is laying the ground work for trade in agricultural products.

19. (C) The Ambassador reminded Ilkin that, in an important sense, Turkey's Cyprus effort succeeded: Cyprus has been removed from the EU's agenda as a reason not to grant Turkey a date to begin accession negotiations. Turkey now needs to consider how to preserve that achievement. The Ambassador suggested that the GOT consider what measures Ankara might be able to take to change the political atmosphere in the southern part of the island. He asked whether FM Gul would be willing to meet with DISY leader Anastassiades; Ilkin undertook to look into it.

EDELMAN